United Nations A/58/807–S/2004/407

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General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda items 52 (a), 66, 73 (f), (i), (v) and (w), 74 (f), 80 and 156

Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

General and complete disarmament: promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation; national legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology; implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction

Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 18 May 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a press release on the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of resolution 1540 (2004) and how it relates to the so-called Proliferation Security Initiative (see annex). The press release was issued by the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations on Friday, 14 May 2004.

04-35751 (E) 210504 210504

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter and its annex published as a document of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 52 (a), 66, 73 (f), (i), (v) and (w), 74 (f), 80 and 156, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodney **López Clemente**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 18 May 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations

Cuba strongly supports general and complete disarmament under strict international control and particularly, the total elimination of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, aware of the danger that the sole existence of this kind of weapons entails for all humanity.

Cuba shares the concerns over the risk posed by the link between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and also fully endorses all legitimate international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring this kind of weapons and its means of delivery. However, this threat cannot be confronted through a selective and discriminatory approach limited to fighting the horizontal proliferation, overlooking the vertical proliferation, that is; the qualitative enhancement of the nuclear armament by the States that have these weapons, and disarmament, which must be aimed at the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Cuba favors the creation and strengthening of an international coalition by all States against the use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists, but such an endeavour must be carried out in compliance with two basic conditions:

1. This threat must be confronted through international cooperation in the framework of the United Nations and the relevant international treaties.

2. The question of proliferation in all its aspects must be solved through political and diplomatic means, within the framework of International Law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

Regrettably, once again, the United States tries to impose its selective and double standards approach on the international community to address the problem of disarmament and arms control, ignoring the fact that the prohibition and total elimination of weapons of mass destruction is the only guarantee that these weapons do not fall into the hands of terrorists.

Instead of contributing to international unity around the issue and the strengthening of the UN's role and that of the international treaties on disarmament and arms control, the so-called Proliferation Security Initiative weakens them.

The multilateral and non-discriminatory approach is the only effective means to prevent terrorists from using weapons of mass destruction.

Several aspects of that initiative are not in line with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and those recognized by international law, that prohibit the interference in the domestic affairs of States and the threats or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or the commission of actions in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, by virtue of the recognition of the principle of sovereign equality, embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

By virtue of the PSI, could be carried out actions clearly contrary to the key provisions of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea such as those referred to the right to innocent passage of vessels through international waters of States and the jurisdictional regime of High Sea, embodied in the Convention.

No assurance would exist that prerogatives assumed by PSI participants cannot be manipulated, particularly by States with stronger military power, to abusively act against vessels and aircrafts of other States on different motivations.

Not satisfied with its unilateral acts, contrary to the principles of international law and the UN Charter, and implementing initiatives such as the PSI, with the majority of the States deprived of the possibility of participating in its drafting, despite its important implications, now the United States tries to make it legitimate at international levels, through the adoption of a resolution at the UN Security Council.

The 1540 (2004) Resolution, adopted by that Body on April 28, 2004, is undoubtedly ambiguous enough in its operative paragraph 10 for some States to announce that actions promoted under the so called "Proliferation Security Initiative", are legitimized by the UN Security Council.

They can argue that their actions aimed at interdicting ships and aircrafts that, according to the countries sponsoring that initiative, seek to carry out operations of illegal trafficking of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery or related material, are legitimate.

Even more dangerous is enunciating the operative part of that resolution by virtue of the enforcement of Chapter VII of the UN Charter. The most powerful states, particularly the United States, have now an open way, as usual, to manipulate the UN Security Council as they please and to their own convenience, and present to that body any country that they deem as promoting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or related-terrorists acts, as a threat to international peace and security, following a selective, discriminatory approach and double standards.

Cuba rejects the arbitrary manipulation or interpretation of Resolution 1540 (2004). In this context, it rejects the eventual use of such resolution as a pre-authorization for the unilateral use of force by any country against specific "non-state actors" or even the States where they are.

This is particularly disturbing in the context of the false and tendentious accusation launched by one of the permanent members of the Security Council against some countries for allegedly developing programs of weapons of mass destruction.

Cuba is deeply concerned about the continued granting to the Security Council of prerogatives and functions that are not of its competence, particularly in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. This only contributes to eroding and undermining the legally binding international treaties and agreements, negotiated in the multilateral framework, and which establish equal legal obligations to all States.

Such legal obligations should not be created for the UN Member States without their full participation and sovereign acceptance through their signature and ratification. In this regard, it is counterproductive that the Security Council, of well-known limited composition, has adopted a resolution on a subject that should

continue to be addressed at the international forums specialized in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

The creation of a Security Council Committee from Resolution 1540 (2004) seems to imply the establishment of a separate regime for the non-proliferation of arms that would erode and that could even, in practice, replace the role and functions of the regimes of international treaties existing in that field, including the role corresponding to bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

That Committee will have a limited membership and it can be foreseen that its work will be dominated by one or more Permanent Representatives of the Security Council that, given the existence of the veto power, will never be objects of measures that could be recommended by itself or by the majority of its members.

No less disturbing is the scope of the adopted resolution. Although its main promoters have insisted that this resolution is targeted to the so called "non state actors", the truth is that it goes beyond the set goal to prevent non state actors from obtaining weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery or related materials. In various parts of the text reference is made to international treaties and agreements adopted by States in such fields and they are demanded to fully enforce them.

Cuba reiterates that the prohibition and total elimination of the weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, is the only guarantee that such weapons do not fall into the hands of terrorists. In such context, the nuclear weapons States are obliged, in compliance with the provisions of the Treaty on Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and together with the rest of States Parties to that Treaty, to establish negotiations to achieve nuclear disarmament.

The States Parties in the several legal instruments currently in force on this matter must take advantage of the review process of such instruments to reaffirm their commitment to adopting all necessary measures at national level to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, related materials and technologies to produce them.

The resolution and the "Proliferation Security Initiative" are attempts to replace such instruments, of which most of States of the World are part, and impose a mechanism of selective, non-transparent composition which would act regardless of international law represented by international treaties.

The PSI is a serious threat to multilateralism and international cooperation in the field of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, defined in the multilateral legal framework of treaties on this matter and in the mandate of the relevant international organizations of wide international recognition, such as NPT, IAEA, OPCW and the Convention on Biological Weapons.

The observance of the principles of International Law and the UN Charter is the only effective way for international peace and security. The world must be ruled by a system of collective security based on the cooperation that can provide full guarantees for all.

Permanent Mission of Cuba to the UN
New York, 14 May 2004

United Nations A/58/808

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 117 (c)
Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Letter dated 18 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In reference to my previous letter dated 17 March 2004 (A/58/743), I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the Law of Turkmenistan on abolition of criminal responsibility for the violation of laws on religious organizations (see annex I), adopted on 14 May 2004, and the text of the decree of the President of Turkmenistan signed on 14 May 2004 on repealing the previous decree on control and use of the charitable aid in religious groups and religious organizations in Turkmenistan (see annex II).

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 117 (c).

(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan
to the United Nations

04-35810 (E) 250504 250504

Annex I to the letter dated 18 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Act of Turkmenistan on the abolition of criminal responsibility for violation of the laws on religious organizations

For the purposes of the effective exercise of the rights of citizens to freedom of religion, guaranteed under the Constitution of Turkmenistan, and also to ensure compliance with the standards and principles of international law on issues of freedom of conscience:

1. Criminal responsibility for violation of the laws on religious organizations shall be abolished.

2. An amendment shall be made to the Penal Code of Turkmenistan, passed into law on 12 June 1997 (Bulletin of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, 1997, No. 2, art. 9; 1998, No. 1, art. 11; 2000, No. 1, art. 3; Nos. 3-4, art. 41; 2002, No. 4, art. 72; 2003, No. 2, art. 9) to delete article 223-2 "Violation of the laws on religious organizations".

Saparmurat **Niyazov**
President of Turkmenistan

Annex II to the letter dated 18 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Decree of the President of Turkmenistan repealing Decree No. 6645 of the President of Turkmenistan of 23 March 2004

In order to establish the necessary legal guarantees to protect freedom of religion and conscience and also to improve the legislation of Turkmenistan on religious organizations, I decree:

Decree No. 6645 of the President of Turkmenistan of 23 March 2004 "On the control and use of charitable aid in religious groups and religious organizations in Turkmenistan" is hereby repealed.

Saparmurat **Niyazov**
President of Turkmenistan

United Nations A/58/809

General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda items 140 and 168

Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Interim budget for the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2004

Interim budget for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2004

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The interim budgets for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2004 and for the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2004 were received in advance form by the Advisory Committee on 17 May and 13 May 2004, respectively. The supplementary information required by the Committee to consider the reports was received on 17 May 2004.

2. **The Advisory Committee is aware of the great pressure under which these reports had to be produced, and notes that the time constraints have led to an outcome in which the requirements presented constitute more of a projection than fully justifiable estimates. In this connection, the Committee points out that these presentations of resource requirements are called "interim budgets". Although not specifically prohibited by any legislative decision, this concept would add another procedural and administrative layer that provides the appearance of a real budget, but is not susceptible to the type of scrutiny given to a full budget.**

3. **The Advisory Committee recognizes that this situation, in which a number of large and complex missions are being organized almost simultaneously, puts a tremendous strain on the Organization and its legislative process. The Advisory Committee intends to give serious thought to this matter, including a**

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consideration of possible refinements to the procedures laid down in General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, to better address the surge capacity in the planning and budgeting of peacekeeping missions.

4. In view of the time constraints resulting from the planned closing of the resumed session of the Fifth Committee on 28 May 2004, and the nature of the projections/estimates referred to above, the Advisory Committee believes that it would be unrealistic for either it or the Fifth Committee to attempt a detailed examination of the requirements for these Missions at this stage. It would therefore be the intention of the Advisory Committee to conduct such a detailed examination on the basis of the fully justified estimates to be presented in early fall 2004.

5. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee has requested information from the Secretariat on the financial requirements for the period between July and October 2004. On this basis, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve commitment authority with assessment for MINUSTAH and UNMISET, as follows:

July-October 2004
(thousands of United States dollars)

MINUSTAH	172 480.5
UNMISET	30 485.6

The Committee has, under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/233, already concurred on commitment authority of up to $49,259,800 for MINUSTAH for the period from 1 May to 30 June 2004. This amount should also be assessed. Thus, the total assessment for MINUSTAH would be $221,740,300.

6. The Advisory Committee recalls that approval of commitment authority with assessment has been granted by the General Assembly on a number of occasions in the past, most recently with regard to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (see General Assembly resolution 54/245 B of 15 June 2000). While it is normally a practice to be avoided (see Advisory Committee reports A/55/941, para. 25, and A/56/688, para. 14), it can and has been used at the start-up of a new mission when the level of eventual appropriation is still uncertain but there is an urgent need for cash.

7. The above recommendation of the Advisory Committee for funding is made without prejudice to any recommendations that it may make to the General Assembly when it considers the full budgets of MINUSTAH and UNMISET in the fall or any decision that the General Assembly might take thereon with regard to budgetary and administrative matters, including but not limited to the administrative structure of the Missions, their staffing tables and operational requirements.

8. In this connection, the Advisory Committee expects particular attention to be paid to the concerns it has previously expressed on the fragmented and top-heavy organizational structure of some missions, as well as the need for clear lines of reporting. The Committee has also, in the recent past, commented on

the need to examine the issue of the application of standard ratios for vehicles and information technology equipment, the need to ensure capacity to implement quick-impact projects without creating bureaucratic structures to support the implementation of such projects and the need to define the concept and functions of joint mission analysis cells vis-à-vis the existing United Nations structure, in particular the security structure, before these cells are established. The Committee has also encouraged greater use of national staff and United Nations Volunteers wherever feasible and cost-effective (see, for example, its report on the proposed budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, A/58/806, and its report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of peacekeeping operations, A/58/759). The Committee has requested information on the methodology utilized for budgeting for electoral assistance activities, including time lines for the assessment of needs, and expects requests in this regard to be well justified.

9. **The Advisory Committee trusts that in the proposals to be submitted in the fall, which should have clear links to the elements of the mandates concerned, due account will be taken of its concerns, especially with regard to MINUSTAH, which is a new Mission.**

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Agenda items 37, 38, 83 and 84

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 20 May 2004 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, yesterday the Security Council adopted resolution 1544 (2004), in response to the ongoing Israeli military attacks against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory that have caused numerous civilian deaths and vast destruction in the Rafah area of the Gaza Strip in particular. Since the beginning of this month, the Israeli occupying forces have killed more than 100 Palestinians, including children, and have destroyed more than 190 homes, rendering more than 2,000 more Palestinians homeless, further exacerbating the political and humanitarian crisis. The overwhelming adoption of resolution 1544 (2004) by the Council represents an important initial response by the international community to this grave deterioration of the situation as a result of Israel's ongoing violations and grave breaches of international law, including international humanitarian law.

In this regard, it is important to recall that, in resolution 1544 (2004), the Security Council, while recalling several of its previous resolutions, reiterated "the obligation of Israel, the occupying Power to abide scrupulously by its legal obligations and responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War", and directly called on "Israel to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law" and insisted, in particular, "on its obligation not to undertake demolition of homes contrary to that law". Condemning the killing of Palestinian civilians in the Rafah area, the Council

04-35884 (E) 200504

also called for the cessation of violence and for respect of and adherence to legal obligations, including those under international humanitarian law. Such a clear and unambiguous reference by the Council to the primacy of international law and its applicability with regard to this ongoing conflict and crisis has been long overdue.

Further, in addition to expressing grave concern over the recent demolition of homes and the ensuing humanitarian situation in the Rafah refugee camp, the Council also called for the provision of emergency assistance to the Palestinians made homeless in the Rafah area. The importance of such humanitarian assistance for the well-being and indeed survival of the Palestinian civilian population in Rafah cannot be underestimated, and it is strongly hoped that the international community and international humanitarian organizations will be forthcoming in response to this urgent appeal.

It is deeply regrettable that, in the immediate wake of the adoption of resolution 1544 (2004), not only did several Israeli officials publicly declare the intention to continue this military campaign, but the Israeli occupying forces have actually continued killing Palestinian civilians and destroying Palestinian homes in the Rafah area. Such actions by Israel, the occupying Power, are typical of its constant and blatant disregard for international law, the resolutions of the United Nations and the will of the international community. In total disrespect for all norms and standards of international law, Israel continues to act with impunity, committing serious violations and grave breaches of international law against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

In the light of this situation, it is imperative that concerted efforts be taken by the United Nations to ensure compliance by Israel with the provisions of resolution 1544 (2004) and with international law, including in particular its obligations as an occupying Power. In upholding its duties and responsibilities, it is incumbent upon the Security Council to seriously follow up the implementation of its resolutions. Further, in this regard, Palestine respectfully urges the Secretary-General to use his good offices to compel the Government of Israel to cease its military campaign against the Palestinian people, including in particular in the Gaza Strip, to adhere to international law and to return to negotiations — in short, to comply with Security Council resolution 1544 (2004).

The role of the Quartet in this regard is also important, particularly as resolution 1544 (2004) calls once more on both parties to immediately implement their obligations under the road map. Tangible efforts must be undertaken to assist the parties in this regard to halt the continued deterioration of the situation and to bring about a resumption of peace negotiations towards the ultimate attainment of a final settlement.

Yesterday, the international community, through the Security Council, made its voice heard in unequivocal rejection of Israel's continuing violations and grave breaches. Serious action must be undertaken to seize upon the consensus expressed by the international community in this regard in order to end the bloodshed and suffering. Inaction will only send the wrong signal to the occupying Power and allow it to continue acting above and beyond the parameters of international law, causing even more death and devastation, and will gravely undermine the credibility of the international system.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 37, 38, 83 and 84, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/58/811

General Assembly

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24 May 2004

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 170
Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi

Interim budget for the United Nations Operation in Burundi for the period from 21 April to 31 December 2004

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The situation concerning the proposals in the interim budget for the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB) (A/58/802) is similar to that which was referred to in respect of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor in the Advisory Committee's report on those missions (A/58/809).

2. **The Advisory Committee is therefore recommending that the proposal of the Secretary-General with respect to ONUB be dealt with in a similar fashion. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve commitment authority in the amount of $49,709,300, inclusive of an amount of $49,491,200 previously authorized by the Committee, for the period from 21 April to 30 June 2004. For the period from July to October 2004, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve commitment authority in the amount of $106,334,600. Thus, total commitment authority for ONUB, inclusive of the amount previously authorized by the Advisory Committee, would be $156,043,900. The Committee recommends assessment of this amount for ONUB.**

3. **In this connection, the Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretariat will take fully into account the considerations expressed in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its above-mentioned report. These considerations are also relevant to the United Nations Operation in Burundi.**

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United Nations A/58/812

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 22
Assistance in mine action

Letter dated 24 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that a workshop on humanitarian mine/unexploded ordnance clearance technology and cooperation was held from 26 to 28 April 2004 in Kunming City, Yunnan Province, China. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, the Australian Network of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association.

This workshop brought together government officials and demining experts from mine-affected Asian countries and mine-action donor countries, as well as representatives from international organizations and non-governmental organizations involved in landmine issues. The workshop has facilitated constructive discussion of demining technology and experiences.

I should be most grateful if you would circulate the present letter and the Chairs' summary of the workshop annexed to it as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 22.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the People's
Republic of China to the United Nations

04-36359 (E) 010604

Annex to the letter dated 24 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Humanitarian Mine/Unexploded Ordnance Clearance Technology and Cooperation Workshop

CHAIRS' SUMMARY

(Kunming, China, April 27, 2004)

A Workshop on Humanitarian Mine/UXO Clearance Technology and Cooperation was held from 26 to 28 April 2004 in Kunming City, Yunnan Province, China. This historic meeting was the first international meeting on humanitarian landmine/UXO clearance held in China.

The meeting was co-sponsored by the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, the Australian Network of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, and the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA). Mr Fu Cong, Deputy Director General of the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and Dr David Johnson of the Australian Network of the ICBL acted as Joint Chairs of the workshop.

Delegates were aware that landmines and unexploded munitions still affect 82 countries globally, and kill or injure over 15,000 people every year. Landmines were used extensively in the past in the Asian region. The legacy of these weapons places a huge cost on the people and communities of affected countries, and can be a major reason people are trapped in poverty.

This workshop brought together government officials and de-mining experts from Asian mine-affected countries and mine action donor countries as well as representatives from international organizations and NGOs involved in landmine issues.

In addition to the host country, China, the meeting was attended by eight mine-affected countries – Afghanistan, Cambodia, Eritrea, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand and Vietnam, and five mine-free countries which have traditionally given aid for mine action - Australia, Canada, France, Switzerland and the USA.

Eight international or non-government organisations which are involved in demining and mine action attended the workshop - The Australian Network of the ICBL, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA), Handicap International – Belgium (HI-B), the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the Mines Action Group (MAG), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

At the opening ceremony, statements were made by Mr TONDRUB WANGBUM, Assistant Governor of Yunnan Province China, by Ambassador Li Dayou, President of CACDA, by Mr Liu Jieyi, Director General of the Arms Control and Disarmament Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, and by Dr David Johnson of the Australian Network of International Campaign to Ban Landmines. All recognised the need to address the continuing humanitarian crisis caused by landmines and unexploded munitions.

The ICBL noted that its goals focus on humanitarian consequences of the use of antipersonnel landmines: mine clearance for the safety of the people, assistance to victims and survivors, destruction of stockpiles to prevent their causing future injuries, and signing of the Mine Ban Convention by all countries.

The resilience, courage and efforts of the landmine survivors, often the poorest in affected countries, call for matching effort and creativity from those of us participating in this workshop.

Canada and Thailand co-chaired a session which heard overviews of mine clearance technologies and experiences in Cambodia, China, Laos, Sri Lanka Tajikistan and Vietnam. Countries in the region stressed the importance of coordination, surveying and planning in dealing with the complexities of mine action. These presentation highlighted the wide range of munitions and environments encountered during mine clearance.

Cambodia and Switzerland co-chaired a session which discussed methodologies and training in mine clearance.

Mechanical devices are used in combination with electronic and dog programmes in order to

1) safely clear vegetation prior to manual demining,
2) speed up area reduction,
3) verify areas believed to be mine-free are actually free
4) conduct quality assurance of land cleared manually
5) and in some cases as a primary clearance tool

In planning and funding mine action programmes operators should take care to choose mechanical devices that are appropriate and cost effective in the environment. Criteria and measurement of relevant results should be collected for the use of mechanical tools in each country.

China then presented a detailed case study of its demining assistance program in Eritrea, and a representative from Eritrea described the landmine/UXO situation and the positive contribution made by China.

France and Sri Lanka co-chaired a session covering perspectives on working with mine-affected communities. There were presentations by the UNMAS on the International Mine Action Standards and also by China on its Mine Clearance Standards, followed by fruitful exchanges. The point was made that community liaison is a two-way system to bridge the divide between mine affected communities and mine action operators. This liaison benefits both parties.

Australia and China co-chaired the session which discussed international collaboration in mine action in Asia. Perspectives on the provision of resources for mine action were given by Australia, Canada, China, France, Switzerland, the USA and Vietnam.

The issue of village demining was discussed noting the benefits of low cost and setting of local priorities must be balanced by ensuring the quality and safety of the clearance operations. The fact that village demining continues is a reflection of the scale of the demining task remaining and the time local people have had to wait for clearance to be done.

Following the two days of technical presentations and discussions, the delegates viewed with interest an exhibition of China's demining technology and equipment.

The Co-Chairs of the workshop observed the following general themes :

- Participants regarded mine/UXO clearance and victim assistance as key elements in addressing the humanitarian concerns in mine-affected countries. International donors need to take account of the individual requirements and specific conditions of different countries.

- A wide range of demining technologies was described, including mechanical, explosive and manual practices.

- All recognised the need to increase the efficiency of mine/UXO clearance operations, bearing in mind the need to undertake clearance as quickly as possible, yet ensuring adequate quality control. They wish to explore ways to enhance co-operation between different mine action parties in ways which take advantage of the different skills, expertise and resources of various countries and organizations.

- It was widely expressed that demining be part of comprehensive programs of mine action including mine risk education, victim assistance and community reconstruction, and the building of local capacities. They also stressed the urgent need to strengthen international efforts in this regard and ensure the projects contribute to development goals. These programs must be conducted with community liaison to ensure they are realistic and pragmatic, so that mine action operations match the local conditions and the needs of the communities.

This meeting notes the potential for further collaborative meetings and actions to build trust and to develop improved mine action practices.

In particular the meeting:

1. Encourages further regional co-operation between the countries in the Asian region, international organisations and NGOs on common issues such as technical matters, operating procedures and development of standards. As part of this we encourage technical exchanges between countries to see each other's work in practice.

2. Encourage countries to consider ways that multiple-party co-operation projects could be undertaken.

3. Encourage involvement and input of all interested countries in the Review process of the International Mine Action Standards.

4. Continue to encourage non-signatory countries to attend meetings of the State Parties to the Mine Ban Convention to foster ongoing dialogues.

The Kunming workshop has facilitated constructive discussion of de-mining technology and experiences. Delegates enjoyed the hospitality of China and the friendly atmosphere of the workshop, where many exchanges of views were made.

There was agreement that the proceedings of this workshop should be shared with all interested parties. We look forward to future meetings and collaboration.

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Security Council

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 37
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 24 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I provide you with the following summary of Israeli violations and acts of aggression against Lebanon:

10 May 2004

At 1025 hours Israeli enemy forces positioned at Ruwaysat al-Alam, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around the said position.

At 1920 hours Israeli enemy forces positioned at Al-Summaqah, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around the said position.

11 May 2004

At 0940 hours Israeli enemy forces positioned at Ruwaysat al-Alam, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around the said position.

13 May 2004

Between 1240 and 1245 hours Israeli enemy forces positioned within the occupied Shab`a Farms area fired two 120-mm mortar shells at the region surrounding Birkat al-Naqqar and a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around Ruwaysat al-Alam.

At 2300 hours Israeli enemy forces in the occupied Shab`a Farms area fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around Ruwaysat al-Alam.

At 0222 hours an Israeli military boat in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons in the direction of the territorial waters, and between 2155 and 2220 hours it fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons and a flare bomb over the territorial waters.

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14 May 2004

At 1650 hours an Israeli military boat in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons in the direction of the territorial waters.

15 May 2004

At 0730 hours Israeli enemy forces positioned at Zibdin, within the occupied Shab`a Farms area, fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons at the area around the said position.

18 May 2004

Between 1135 and 1215 hours the Israel Air Force violated Lebanese airspace, flying at various altitudes over the Naqurah and Tyre regions.

19 May 2004

Between 1115 and 1145 hours the Israel Air Force violated Lebanese airspace, flying at various altitudes over the occupied Shab`a Farms.

20 May 2004

Between 1225 and 1227 hours two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, flying at various altitudes, and overflew the sea off Na`imah in an easterly direction.

22 May 2004

Between 1440 and 1515 hours the Israel Air Force violated Lebanese airspace, flying at various altitudes over the occupied Shab`a Farms.

These grave violations are part of a series of persistent and provocative Israeli violations of Lebanese territory, airspace, and territorial waters and are in contravention of the principles of international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations has repeatedly called for their cessation.

In view of these violations and the stepping-up of Israeli threats to Lebanon and the safety of its territory and its citizens, Lebanon calls upon the Security Council to deter and prevent Israel from such dangerous acts, which pose a threat to international security and peace. Israel must assume full responsibility for those acts and for any consequences to which they may give rise.

In drawing your attention to the gravity and possible consequences of such acts, I request to have this letter of complaint circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative